

The Athens Post.

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

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TERMS:

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The Post.

Athens, Friday, April 30, 1869.

An Important Bill.

Some of our exchanges state that in the Senate of the United States, an important bill, providing for the settlement of all claims for quartermaster and commissary stores furnished or taken by the United States Government in the Southern States during the rebellion, was reported from the Committee on Claims.

Whisky.

Somebody who has been there says: Before you acquire a taste for whisky, insure your life and take care of your family. The certain death which whisky brings is only a question of time. He is always bearing down his victim, like a strong man armed, and comes inevitably as fate or arms.

Grant's Biographers.

In the list of Grant's biographers, Badeau has been reached at last and has been awarded, not with an appraisement, but with the appointment of Assistant Secretary of Legation at London. After the biographers, the publishers of the biographies are to be remembered; and then Bonner, who publishes the best of the biographies, may take the lead, even without the help of "Dexter."

No Volunteer.

"Mr. President," said Charles Sumner, in concluding his remarks on the Alabama treaty, "I desire to say that I am no volunteer." The World remarks that "even this frank confession is a quotation. It was said by thousands of loud-mouthed loyalists in Massachusetts who raked the coast, from Hatteras to Berwick Bay, for negro substitutes to fill the quota of Massachusetts during the war."

Practical Charity.

A poor woman and her infant died some days ago, in an eastern city, of starvation. In her hand she clutched a tract on the "Goodness of God," which had been left her a few days previous by a member of the "Young Men's Christian Association." We have no words of comment to offer; but it was very kind of those Christians to leave the poor woman a tract; it must have been a great comfort to the dying infant.

Sensation about Cuba.

According to a Washington special, a few days since the "Spanish Minister called on Secretary Fish and demanded that a proclamation against filibustering be issued. The Secretary promptly declined, saying that as the insurgents had a provisional government, he saw no reason for hindering persons from taking up arms in their service. The Spanish Minister some days ago promised full reparation for the insults to our flag by the Spaniards in Cuba. Yesterday he informed Secretary Fish that he had not heard from his government on the subject, when the Secretary informed him that war would ensue if an answer was not forthcoming.

"The Handsome Man."

Fanny Fern never painted a more graphic picture than she does of the "handsome man."

But your conventional "handsome man" of the barber's window, wax-figure head pattern; with a pet lock in the middle of his forehead, and apple-sized head, and a raspberry moustache with six hairs in it, paint pot on his cheek, and a little dot of a "goatee" on his chin with pretty blinking little studs in his shirt bosom; and a necktie that looks as if he would faint were it tumbled, I'd as lief look at a poodle. I always feel a desire to nip it with a pair of sugar tongs, drop it gently into a bowl of cream, and strew pink rose leaves over the little remains.

Billiards.

The New York players announce that billiard players propose to make a change in the counting of the game, so that all caroms will count three, whether on red or white balls. Henry Ward Beecher and other noted clergymen favor the change.

Imperialism.

The New York *Atlas* with reference to the appearance, there, of a new journal, called the *Imperialist* (advocating the substitution of a monarchical for a Republican form of Government), says: Imperialism needs no advocate here. Its seeds are sown. They are fast taking root. This is proved by the encroaching and lawless spirit which characterizes our present legislation in all parts of the country; by the multiplication of luxurious and extravagant amusements; the steady increase of the extreme opulence and poverty; by the slow but (it would appear) sure absorption of the conservative middle class; by the quiet submission, generally manifested, to outrages which, ten years ago, would have excited an insurrection. If all this be not speedily corrected, the solution of these imperialistic tendencies and efforts will be realized in the not far distant future.

The New York *Courier* seems to be impressed with like convictions. It says: We are not surprised at the appearance of this paper. It is the natural outcropping of a spirit of modes of thought and feeling far more prevalent in this country than any going old togethies have any idea of. From the date of Grant's election we foretold the empire. We have reiterated the warning weekly since that time, and the *Imperialist* is an outward sensible sign; not only of the truth of our prophecy, but of the near approach of its accomplishment.

Jack Hamilton--Texas.

The Washington correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal* is responsible for the following: A fierce interview took place between Jack Hamilton and Attorney-General Hoar on Tuesday last, and the following conversation is said to have occurred: Hamilton--"I called, Mr. Attorney-General, to inquire whether it is true that you intend to appoint Mr. Hoar to the Texas?"

Attorney-General--"Yes sir; I have already made out his nomination." Hamilton--"Then, I think, it is my duty to say that he is a bad man, and not fit to hold the office."

Attorney-General--"I had heard that you were opposed to him, and was not surprised, as I also hear that you are going over to the 'Copperheads.'"

Hamilton--"G--d--n you, or any man, who impugns my political motives. Where were you when the war was raging? What were you doing that justifies your blatant Unionism today? Dispensing the only law you know--Massachusetts law--while I was risking my life in behalf of the Union. As you do not know what is decent or well bred in your intercourse with gentlemen, I will not trouble you further, but will go to your master."

So saying Jack struck off, leaving the respectable Massachusetts pettifogger in a bewildering rage and astonishment, and proceeding to the White House, laid the case before Grant and had the appointment annulled. It is said Jack is pretty certain to be elected Governor of Texas, and this interview will not set him back much.

A Neglected Friend.

The Editor of the Pittsburgh *Daily Post* claims to have been one of Grant's very earliest political friends, but he does not seem to have a very high idea of the President's gratitude in his case. He says: Early in '67 this paper brought him out for the Presidency, in an article which was quoted up to the hour of the election, and he has never said thank you, nor inquired after our health. We made a mistake in wasting brains in writing his praise, for like Madelon in Fanchon, we forgot he could not, or what was the same thing, would not read. We should have sent him a Bible or pony to have enjoyed his favor and influence.

Grant's Appointments.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* has the following about the new administration: Grant has sent negroes to represent the United States at Hayti and Liberia as ministers resident. To one of the most lucrative offices in New Orleans he appoints a negro. For the postoffice at Richmond he selects a Northern strong-minded woman. For Governor of Montana he chooses the notorious gambler and cheat, Jim Ashley. His cabinet is made up of men who have him housed and lots and donations of money. His relatives and those of his wife swarm in all of the public offices. This is the man who, forsooth, was to reform the politics of the country--so we were told before the election.

California Wheat.

The San Francisco *Bulletin* says a large crop is promised this year. It calculates that the profit on one thousand acres of wheat is \$16,800, where twenty bushels to the acre are raised, and the price averages two cents a pound. Some farms yield forty bushels, some fifty. The seaboard counties do not produce good wheat. Coast wheat is now well known at a single glance by experts. The best seed wheat runs out, or degenerates into a second quality after one or two sowings on the coast. The moisture from the fogs late in the season, is said to work most of the mischief.

Law libraries in Kentucky do not last long. In one county it is frequently found necessary to replace volumes worn out by attorneys who use them in pounding each other's head.

Congress has given \$7,500 towards revivifying the tomb of Washington, which has fallen into a shameful state of decay and shabbiness.

The Crops of 1869.

One of our New York exchanges takes a very favorable view of the crop prospect for 1869. We extract as follows from its article:

Throughout the West, the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, &c., a larger breadth of land than usual has been sown in wheat. In all respects the winter sown promises well, while a considerable space of new ground has been broken up and sown with spring wheat. In Missouri, there are a few complaints, while from Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee the reports are most encouraging. In some parts of North Carolina, as well as in Virginia, a large share of attention is being bestowed upon the raising of early garden truck for the Northern market, but not to an extent to interfere with the great staples of those States--corn, cotton and tobacco. From the interior of New York, as well as from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, we have satisfactory accounts. The planters in Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas are recuperating their energies, and from every section, with the exception of a part of Texas, where the grasshopper pest is again disturbing the corn and cotton fields, and a part of Alabama, whence complaints of damage by unexpected frosts reach us, we have cheering accounts. But it would seem from all reports that Georgia gives promise of being more fortunate the coming than in the past year. The accounts of the growing wheat in that State are glowing in the extreme--one field of a thousand acres in fine condition being among the pleasant sights recently witnessed by a Georgia cotemporary. Larger quantities of land than usual have been planted in corn and oats, while the cotton breadth will be fully up to the standard. It is estimated that in Georgia fifty per cent of the land will be planted in cotton, forty per cent in corn and ten per cent in oats. Tennessee will have a larger breadth of land in cotton than ever before. Louisiana is rejoicing in a promising and much augmented crop of sugar cane, and a generally revived condition of agriculture within her borders, which may be said in truth of every other Southern State. Even South Carolina begins to express her self contented with the new order of things in regard to labor, and her fields are showing their wonted fertility. In Florida a number of Northerners have commenced the cultivation of fruit on an extensive scale, but Florida is native to a great cotton-growing State, and as such is destined to become one of the richest in the cotton growing galaxy.

In regard to fruit prospects accounts are somewhat conflicting, and hear and there we hear the note of a croaker. It is stated that in some sections of Kansas, and even as far south as Alabama, late "freezes" have destroyed most of the peach and apricot blossoms. But while this is the case only in limited sections, from the vast area of land devoted to fruit culture we hear no complaints, but, on the contrary, tidings both cheering and welcome. This is our country, from one end to the other, blessed by a benign Providence with the elements of internal wealth and national prosperity and plenty.

The Condition of Trade.

The New York *World* descants upon the general dullness of trade, and endeavors to trace its causes:

The reckless flinging of money away, the country-wide demand for fabrics, gauds, and bijouterie, the wild and speculative course of trade for the last four years or more (we are told), are succeeded now by stagnation. Notwithstanding that Mr. Grant sits in the White House and Mr. Boutwell in the Treasury building at Washington, no impetus has been given, no confidence pervades, the monetary and mercantile affairs of these United States. Men are suspicious. The administration of Mr. Grant is regarded with a certain distrust. The rumors of his ambitious designs upon foreign territory which, if any one of them is attempted to be carried out, may fatally disturb even the present ill-ordered state of business and social concerns--fill the air. There are not wanting dismal people, who predict, after this sluggish calm, a melancholy monetary crash.

Mutilated Currency--Taxes.

The order of the Treasury Department forbidding the payment of taxes in national bank notes the least mutilated, no matter how neatly repaired, has called forth protests from collectors, who say it will be impossible to collect taxes unless they can receive such bank notes as pass current in all business transactions, and are received on deposit by all banking institutions.

Sentenced to be Hung.

Parshall, the hotel keeper at Courtland, Alabama, who shot and killed Conductor Oates, of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, some time since, has been convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced by the Circuit Court of Alabama to death.

Demented vs Fermented.

A member of the Massachusetts Legislature has introduced a resolution providing that "any clergyman furnishing fermented wine at a sacramental communion table, shall be deemed guilty of keeping a public bar."

From White Pine.

The Cheyenne *Leader* says that already parties are beginning to return from White Pine. One poor fellow, who went East, says that "three months in Alaska and three months in White Pine would make six months in hell."

Josh Billings says an owl is a solemn bird, being a cross between a justice of the peace and a county supervisor.

The Empire State of the Pacific.

(From the New York Herald.)

The people of this State and of other flourishing States of the Union often exclaim with pride, New York is a great State, Ohio is a great State, and so on; but none of the citizens of our republic have cause to speak as exultingly in this way as the Californians. California is truly a great, a wonderful State, if we look at her surprising growth and astonishing productions. We were led to make this remark by noticing the news from San Francisco about the export of wheat and flour from that port. There are sixty-six vessels now en route to Great Britain from San Francisco with cargoes aggregating one million seven hundred thousand sacks of wheat, besides eight vessels for domestic Atlantic ports with a hundred and sixty-six thousand sacks, ten vessels for Rio Janeiro with fifty-one thousand barrels of flour. The California wheat and flour now afloat for China and other countries is valued at four millions of dollars. This is the country that twenty-five years ago was a barren waste, and that twenty years ago, when it first began to be settled by mining adventurers, was regarded as being unfit for agriculture and only valuable for its minerals. It has within this short period become not only a great exporting country for grain and flour, but furnishes the best in the markets of the world and obtains the highest price. All this, too, in addition to its vast production of the precious metals, wool and other articles. Nearly all the vegetable productions of the temperate zone, and even some of those that are semi-tropical, are grown there larger, finer in quality and more abundantly than in many of the most favored countries on the globe. There is a population now of not less, perhaps, than four to five hundred thousand, and San Francisco has grown within twenty years from a small village to be a princely city with over a hundred thousand inhabitants. Almost every climate is embraced within the limits of the State, and nowhere can one be found more healthful, agreeable or invigorating. But astonishing as the growth of California has been, its future must be more so. With the completion of the Pacific railroad and the rapidly developing trade and intercourse with China, Japan and Asia generally, we may confidently expect a growth in population, commerce and wealth that will far exceed anything known in the history of the world. The Golden Gate, as the entrance to the harbor of San Francisco is appropriately and beautifully called, will be the entrance for the teeming millions of Chinese and other Asiatics, and of a stupendous commerce. San Francisco will be on the Pacific side of the Continent, what New York is on this, and will become at no distant day the second city of America. Indeed, it would be difficult to conjecture what the future of that city or of that wonderful country will be. The people there may well say California is a great State and be proud of it.

Wheat Crop in England.

Regarding wheat in England, the London correspondent of the New York *Financial Chronicle*, under date of April 3, writes:

"The wheat trade has become firmer this week, owing to the less favorable accounts respecting the state of the wheat plants. The cold and boisterous weather which prevailed during March seems to have done some injury, the extent of which will not probably be ascertained until April showers, assisted by a warmer temperature, shall have given the plant an impetus. It will then be found out what amount of injury has been done. The plant in many parts of the country looks very yellow, and in some places is thin on the ground; and an impression prevails that the yield per acre will fall considerably short of last season. A warm and growing April may, however, work a great change. The advance in the price of wheat this week is about 1s per quarter."

Crimson Clover.

The Macon *Telegraph* says: "Mr. Jacob Schall sends us a bunch of crimson (Italian) clover, from his place in this county. At this early season in the spring it is between two and three feet high and is surmounted with a beautiful conical blossom of a rich crimson color. This clover is from foreign seed imported by Mr. Schall last fall."

Got Him.

The Nashville *Banner* of Friday says: Judge Stann was yesterday appointed Chancellor of the First Chancery Division, vice Luckey deceased.

A Leavenworth paper thinks "an evidence of the westward march of civilization" is that the Kansas Legislature appropriated \$1400 for tobacco for the penitentiary prisoners, and only \$300 for preaching the Gospel to them.

An Iowa paper records the escape of a prisoner thus: "The constable and prisoner disagreed as to which was the best route, and as the prisoner has not been heard from since, it is supposed he took the wrong road."

The sealwags can have no pleasure in living, and their only consolation in dying will be that their friend Satan will not "leave them out in the cold."

It is stated that there are already three thousand steam ploughs at work in England, some of them with stationary engines capable of driving from three to six ploughs each.

The Lebanon *Clarion* says: A hen belonging to Hon. J. Proc. Knott laid an egg one day last week, which bears upon it, in raised letters, the following inscription: "Wo! wo! wo! Ulysses S. Grant, 1869."

Sumner's Speech--Response from a British Crown Source.

From the Toronto (Canada) Gazette, April 18.

Senator Sumner evidently knows, from long experience, the exact amount of "bunkum" and "flap-doodle" which his countrymen can swallow with impunity, and presumed upon it in the speech on the Alabama claims treaty, which he made with great success in the United States Senate on Tuesday. The rather rough and brief synopsis of his remarks, which leaked out through the closed doors of the Senate chamber, do not define the stand he has taken in a very satisfactory manner; but from the general tenor of what was communicated to the press, in order to fire the Northern heart, it is easy to discover that he endorsed the furious, uncompromising, absurd policy advocated by such reckless journals as the New York *Herald*, and that if a compromise is ever brought about through the offices of any American or other statesman, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, although usually, and as he should be, reflective and cool-headed, will not be a party thereto.

Some of the charges in his long indictment are so absurd that they would never be preferred in any state paper from the hand of any statesman who has the remotest conception of the duties of international comity. Mr. Sumner, of course, knew this, but he none the less presumed upon the ignorance of his auditors and the gross gullibility of a nation which has always refused to think for itself, and throws the duty and profitable labor upon the willing shoulders of "professional politicians" like Mr. Sumner. It would be almost unfair to assume that the synopsis now before us contains anything like a correct version of his views; but on one or two points Mr. Sumner is only consistent. Several years ago, at popular meetings, not in his place in the Senate, he denounced England for issuing a proclamation of neutrality and conceding belligerent rights to the Southern insurgents, as well as for the blockade running proclivities of some of her daring, hardy adventurers; but no sensible man, no one at all acquainted with the views of even the American publicists on these branches of international law, ever supposed that they would be seriously propounded by Mr. Sumner in his present capacity as the mouthpiece of the administration. Wheaton, the standard American authority, is directly opposed to Mr. Sumner on both of these grounds, holding that blockade running is a venial offence condoned by the risk which the parties to it incur; holding further that no State has a right to institute a blockade unless it makes it effective; and on the other point raised by Mr. Sumner, that a State has an inherent right to define its relations towards another, and decide whether it shall remain neutral or otherwise in any contest between any two Powers or parts of a Power. The United States government has frequently acted upon these well known, universally recognized doctrines, and even now is about to issue a proclamation warning its constituents not to violate the neutrality of the State by taking part in the contest now going on in Cuba. Ah, but, says Mr. Sumner, the South was in a state of rebellion against a sovereign Power, with which you were on friendly terms, and yet you hesitated to recognize the rebels as belligerents, and therefore, give them the status which they could not otherwise have acquired--a position which enabled them to carry on operations on the high seas in cruisers recognized by you as belonging to an independent Power, to the destruction and ruin of our vast and widely extended commerce. If this be "the head and front of the English 'offending'" the United States government was just as great a sinner. And why? Let us suppose that England had not conceded belligerent rights to the South, what would have been the consequence according to all the writers on international law? Only this, that as soon as the Sumpter, the Nashville and the other earlier Confederate cruisers arrived in England after burning the British and other Northern merchant vessels, their officers and crew having no recognized status, would have been subject to the law and amenable to trial and execution as pirates, although, too, they were only exercising their recognized belligerent right to make reprisals. England very properly refused to act as hangman for the American government, and when the same question came up for trial and disposal in the United States courts in the memorable case of the confederate crew seized almost red-handed, off Charleston harbor, that government abated its previous intentions and ended by adopting a similar course. In other words, the crew in question was tried and sentenced to death for piracy, but a little reflection showed government that it would be unwise and unnatural to carry out the sentence, and in the end the "pirates" were exchanged as regular prisoners of war. What difference was there, after all, in the position assumed by both governments? England called and treated the Southerners as belligerents. The North went still further, and by exchanging prisoners gave them the legal status and the recognized position of what England all along refused to give, notwithstanding the representations of France--an independent Power. And yet Mr. Sumner and the other sympathizers with every rebellion on the face of the earth except their own, do not hesitate to outrage law and common sense by the stand which he is reported to have taken on such a well understood and so clearly defined international question. It would, in fact appear from his utterances and those of many other Northern writers and politicians, that they "went in for the war" with the impression and expectation that all the advantages would be on their side, and wrong, hideous, sinful, for the South to strike back, no matter how plundered, downtrodden

and aggrieved. If that was the case they should have counted the cost before they began. It is now rather late in the day to cry and whine about it, especially when the reparation so arrogantly insisted upon will probably have to be purchased, if England only possesses a portion of her former spirit, at a cost of life and treasure far greater than that poured out in the last American war.

Texas--Negroes Hung.

From the Henderson News, April 14.

In last week's issue we gave a good many of the particulars of the murder of Col. Green, six miles east of this place, by five negro men. One fact was not mentioned, which may probably throw some light upon the subject as to the motives of the murderers--that is that after Green was hung, his pockets were rifled and what money he had--only 30 cents--taken by one of the negroes.

In this connection it becomes our duty to speak of the second act in this tragedy--that of the hanging of the negroes committed to the jail of this county for said murder, which occurred on Tuesday night of last week. They were put in jail on Monday evening and the jail surrounded by a strong guard. Every thing went off quietly on Monday night and the impression prevailed with many that the prisoners would not be interfered with. The deputy sheriffs Durham and Hickey, however, on Tuesday night again put out guards. All was quiet until about midnight, when the guards report they were attacked by a mob of about fifty men, variously disguised--some black, some red and some yellow.

The attack was sudden--the guard not perceiving the approach of the mob until they were upon them. The guards were ordered not to resist on pain of their lives. Mr. Van Hook, the jailor, was thrown down and the keys to the jail taken away from him. A portion of the crowd then went into the jail and took possession of the negroes--a portion held the guard in duress, and a portion guarded the outside approaches to the jail. The guard said that but little was said, that every man appeared to understand the part he was to act.

The negroes were brought out of the jail, with ropes around their necks, their hands tied behind them and gags in their mouths. This accounts for the fact that there was not noise enough made to awaken the near neighbors to the jail. The negroes were immediately carried off. These are the facts substantially as detailed by those who were on guard.

On the next morning three of the negroes were found hanging to shade trees in front of the Baptist Church--Jordan, the preacher, and two others, said to be exhorters--one to a china, south of the Court-house, and another one to a china on the north side of the Court-house.

A Donkey on a Locomotive.

The Huntsville *Democrat* tells the following:

The other night, as a passenger train on the M. & C. R. R., was passing Stephen's Gap, Jackson county, a donkey was standing on the track, with his rear to the engine. The cow-catcher struck him and he, suddenly disappearing like an apparition, from the engineer's view. The engineer and conductor, curious to know what had become of the brute, stopped the train, and found him seated on his haunches between the bumper and the engine, under the headlight, with his head and ears erect, in all the solemn majesty of his nature. With considerable difficulty, he was dethroned and turned on the commons. He moved off serenely, and apparently unhurt.

Singular Suicide.

A singular suicide took place recently in Glade township, Warren county, Pa. Wm. A. Blakesley, aged 53 years, in good circumstances, financially, but laboring under a fit of insanity, went to the woods, climbed a tree and fastened one end of a rope to a limb and the other to his neck, then shot himself through the brain and fell from the limb and hung suspended by the rope. He used a looking-glass to assist him in taking a proper aim. Mr. B. was an educated man, having once followed the vocation of a minister, and was a justice of the peace at the time of his death. He leaves a wife and several children.

Salt for the Soil.

A member of the Herkimer County Farmers' Club states that last spring he ploughed an old sod, in which there was an immense number of grubs. He sowed upon three quarter acres, soon after ploughing, two bushels of coarse salt. This was dissolved by rain, which came a day or two later. The ground was then thoroughly harrowed and planted in corn, about half a pint of leached ashes being placed with each hill. The yield was very large, and there was not the slightest injury by worms. He has no doubt that the crop would have been quite destroyed had there been no application of salt.

We are to have a two-and-one-half-hour's eclipse of the sun in August. The representative science of all parts of the world will be on the alert to make minute and useful observations of it.

Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet writes from Plano, Illinois, that the story set afloat recently by the papers that he had died is untrue. He says he still lives. He ought to know.

W. D. Moore is a Christian gentleman from Missouri, who first invited himself to drink with a stranger, and then split the stranger open, morally, because he demurred to paying.

The New Orleans *Gleaner* news-paper has been merged in the Times. Consolidation is the order of the day.